

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for externally managing a data within an  
2 asynchronous pipeline, wherein said asynchronous pipeline  
3 includes a data path and a control path, said method  
4 comprising:

5 assigning a data tag value to said data;

6 sending said data tag value into said control path  
7 when said data value is sent into said data path such  
8 that said data tag value passes through said asynchronous  
9 pipeline in parallel with said data; and

10 comparing said data tag value with a control tag  
11 value; and

12 in response to said data tag value matching said  
13 control tag value, permitting said data to pass to a next  
14 stage within said asynchronous pipeline.

1       2. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of assigning  
2       a data tag value comprises associating an encoded binary  
3       sequence with said data.

1       3. The method of claim 2, wherein said comparing step  
2       further comprises decoding said encoded binary sequence to  
3       identify said data tag value.

1       4. The method of claim 1, further comprising delivering  
2       said data tag value to a processor that is in  
3       communicative contact with said given stage.

5. The method of claim 4, further comprising:

      assigning a control tag value with respect to said  
      data tag value; and

      delivering said control tag value from said processor  
      to said given stage.

6. The method of claim 4, wherein said given stage  
2       includes a logic function for processing said data, said  
3       method further comprising:

4       determining whether or not said control tag value  
5       matches said data tag value; and

6       in response to determining that said control tag  
7       value matches said data tag value, delivering a control  
8       instruction from said processor to said logic function.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein said assigning step further comprises:

receiving said data at the front-end of said asynchronous pipeline; and

associating said data tag value with said data within a memory device.

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1       8. A system for externally managing data within an  
2       asynchronous pipeline, wherein said asynchronous pipeline  
3       includes a data path and a control path, said system  
4       comprising:

5               processing means for assigning a data tag value to  
6       said data;

7               processing means for sending said data tag value into  
8       said control path when said data is sent into said data  
9       path such that said data tag value passes through said  
10      asynchronous pipeline in parallel with said data; and

11       logic means for comparing said data tag value with a  
12      control tag value, and in response to said data tag value  
13      matching said control tag value, permitting said data to  
14      pass to the next stage within said asynchronous pipeline.

1       9. The system of claim 8, wherein said processing means  
2       for assigning a data tag value comprises processing means  
3       for associating an encoded binary sequence with said data.

1       10. The system of claim 9, further comprising logic means  
2       for decoding said encoded binary sequence to identify said  
3       data tag value.

1       11. The system of claim 8, further comprising processing  
2       means for delivering said data tag value to a processor  
3       that is in communicative contact with said given stage.

1       12. The system of claim 11, further comprising:

2               processing means for assigning a control tag value  
3       with respect to said data tag value; and

4               processing means for delivering said control tag  
5       value from said processor to said given stage.

6       13. The system of claim 11, wherein said given stage  
7       includes a logic function for processing said data, said  
8       system further comprising:

9               logic means for determining whether or not said  
10      control tag value matches said data tag value; and

11               processing means responsive to said control tag value  
12      matching said data tag value for delivering a control  
13      instruction from said processor to said logic function.

1       14. The system of claim 8, wherein said processing means  
2       for assigning a data tag value to said data further  
3       comprises:

4                    processing means for receiving said data at the  
5                    front-end of said asynchronous pipeline; and

6                    processing means for associating said data tag value  
7                    with said data within a memory device.

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